

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 05681 070754Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
 CEA-01 /091 W

-----041374 080225Z /75

R 070630Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5998
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 5681

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: ETRD, ECON, EFIN, PL
SUBJ: REPORTS OF TOP-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES IN POLISH MINISTRIES
AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

1. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF
REPORTS OF IMPENDING CHANGES IN SOME OF THE TOP POSITIONS IN
THE GOP MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY, THE
FINANCE MINISTRY, BANK HANDLOWY (POLAND'S FOREIGN TRADE BANK)
AND THE FOREIGN TRADE CHAMBER WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO AN
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. ONE IMPORTANT CHANGE HAS
ALREADY TAKEN PLACE. IT APPEARS PROBABLE THAT OTHERS MAY
BE IMMINENT, ALTHOUGH EXACT TIMING IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT.

2. ON JUNE 15 THE POLISH PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT HENRYK
PRUCHNIEWICZ, VICE MINISTER AND UNDER SECRETARY IN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY, HAD BEEN
TRANSFERRED TO THE EQUIVALENT POSITION IN THE MINISTRY OF
CHEMICAL INDUSTRY. PRUCHNIEWICZ WAS REPLACED, ACCORDING
TO A JUNE 30 ANNOUNCEMENT, BY ANTONI KARAS WHO SERVED AS
POLISH AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA FROM 1972
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 WARSAW 05681 070754Z

THROUGH 1978 AFTER HAVING HELD SEVERAL DIFFERENT POSITIONS
IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE.

3. PRUCHNIEWICZ IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN
TRADE JERZY OLSZEWSKI. HIS UNEXPECTED REMOVAL HAS GIVEN
NEW IMPETUS TO REPORTS THAT OLSZEWSKI HIMSELF WILL BE
LEAVING THE MINISTRY SOMETIME THIS SUMMER, POSSIBLY TO RETURN

TO ACADEMIC LIFE. OLSZEWSKI HAS HAD AT LEAST TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE HEART ATTACKS IN THE PAST YEAR, THE LATEST BEING IN DECEMBER 1977 WHILE HE WAS ACCOMPANYING GIerek ON A VISIT TO ROME. IN ADDITION TO HAVING THE BRUTAL AND THANKLESS TASK OF TRYING TO HOLD DOWN POLISH IMPORTS, PUSH EXPORTS, AND REDUCE THE COUNTRY'S BILLION DOLLAR PLUS TRADE DEFICIT, HE IS REPORTEDLY UNDER ATTACK FROM "THE OLD GUARD" IN THE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY AND ALSO FROM THE PARTY LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN POLAND'S MARITIME PROVINCES. THE LATTER WANT TO REESTABLISH A SEPARATE MINISTRY FOR SHIPPING AND MARITIME AFFAIRS. ONE WELL-INFORMED POLISH TRADING OFFICIAL RECENTLY TOLD US THAT SUCH PEOPLE AS PZPR FIRST SECRETARY FISZBACK IN GDANSK, AND HIS OPPOSITE NUMBER INF SZCZECIN, ARE CONSTANTLY INCREASING PRESSURE FOR A SEPARATE MARITIME MINISTRY. THE OFFICIAL PREDICTED THAT THEY WILL WIN OUT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR.

4. MINISTER OF FINANCE HENRYK KISIEL, WHO HAS BEEN HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE IN MEETING EMBASSY OFFICERS AND HIGH-LEVEL VISITING US OFFICIALS ON POLAND'S FINANCIAL SITUATION, HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR SOME TIME TO BE SUFFERING FROM CANCER. KISIEL HAS BEEN HOSPITALIZED TWICE IN ENGLAND FOR SURGERY DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS. ALTHOUGH HE APPEARED AT THE EMBASSY'S INDEPENDENCE DAY PARTY AND CONTINUES TO BE ACTIVE IN HIS MINISTRY, THERE ARE STRONG FRUMORS THAT HE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE MOST OBVOUS, BUT BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 WARSAW 05681 070754Z

NO MEANS CERTAIN, PROSPECTIVE SUCCESSOR IS FIRST VICE MINISTER MARIAN KRZAK, ALSO A GOOD FRIEND OF THE EMBASSY.

5. TWO TOP-LEVEL CHANGES IN BANK HANDLOWY WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, POSSIBLY SOONER. PRESIDENT ROMAN MALESA IS EXPECTED TO RESIGN FOR HEALTH REASONS AND TAKE OVER THE HANDLOWY BRANCH IN FRANKFURT. HIS REPLACEMENT IS UNOFFICIALLY BUT RELIABLY SAID TO BE ZDZISLAW FEDOROWICZ, NOW VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL BANK (NARODOWY BANK POLSKI). FEDOROWICZ, AN EXPERT ON COMECON FINANCING AND A PART-TIME PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW, IS A POLISHED AND FRIENDLY BANKER WHO HAS VISITED THE UNITED STATES AT LEAST TWICE. ON ONE OCCASION HE TRAVELLED ACROSS AMERICA WITH HIS WIFE BY GREYHOUND BUS "TO REALLY SEE YOUR COUNTRY." JAN WOLOSZYN, THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AT HANDLOWY, NOW 66 YEARS OLD, IS KNOWN TO HAVE REQUESTED RETIREMENT FOR SOME TIME. TOO VALUABLE TO LET GO, IT APPEARS THAT HE WILL BE GIVEN AN ADVISORY JOB IN THE FINANCE MINISTRY. WE HAVE HEARD NO NAMES MENTIONED FOR HIS REPLACEMENT.

6. AT THE FOREIGN TRADE CHAMBER, PRESIDENT WLODZIMIERZ

WISNIEWSKI, WHO SPEAKS BRITISH-ACCENTED ENGLISH AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE POLISH-AMERICAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED POLISH AMBASSADOR TO HELSINKI, ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HAS YET BEEN MADE. WE HAVE HEARD NO REPORTS ABOUT WHO HIS SUCCESSOR WILL BE.
SCHAUFEELE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WARSAW05681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780280-0268
Format: TEL
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780783/aaaacsev.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5a416479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2080613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTS OF TOP-LEVEL PERSONNEL CHANGES IN POLISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS
TAGS: ETRD, ECON, EFIN, PL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5a416479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014